POIR900

Policy Design and Practice

S1 Block 2017

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MPPP and 24cp at 800 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit requires students to draw on theoretical and discipline knowledge and use these to engage actively in a current and topical policy problem. The students will have opportunities to consult experts and stakeholders in a given policy area and identify relevant evidence, expert opinion and stakeholder views. Students will explore a range of problem definitions and scenarios, and consider alternative policy solutions. Working collaboratively in teams, students will develop and present a comprehensive and constructive policy proposal which demonstrates an awareness of ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in the specific policy context.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources

Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem

Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions

Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context

Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

General Assessment Information

Assignment Submission for Short Essay and Policy Analysis

These two written assignments must be submitted using the “Turnitin Assignments” facility on the iLearn website. This facility includes software which scans the uploaded assignments for plagiarism. Follow the instructions on the screen carefully. Your assignment should be uploaded before midnight on the due date.

In all cases, you should ensure that you keep a copy of the assignment.

Return of marked work

Marked assignments will be returned via the same facility on iLearn. When marks are released, you will need to go back in to the assignment submission box, and open your uploaded assignment. When you click on the “GradeMark” button, you will be able to see the marker’s comments on your work. You can save or print the essay with the comments.

Marks and comments for the Short Reflections and Participation components of the assessment will be provided by email.

Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and will require documentary evidence such as a medical certificate to support the request for an extension. You should contact the convenor as early as possible if you think you may need an extension. While we do understand that most students are engaged in paid employment, extensions cannot be granted on this basis alone.

Penalties for late submission

Assignments which are submitted after the due date, without having an extension granted by the convenor, will be penalised, at a rate of 3% of the mark for each week day after the due date. Any paper submitted more than 3 weeks after the due date will not be marked, and the student

will be failed for the assignment.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Short reflections	30%	No	Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9
Short Essay (Scoping Paper)	20%	No	Friday of Week 8
Participation	10%	No	On-campus sessions
Policy Analysis	40%	No	Friday of Week 13

Short reflections

Due: **Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9**
Weighting: **30%**

You will be required to post a short reflection of 750 words on set topics each fortnight. There will be a total of 4 of these blog posts over the semester. These will be posted on a blog inside iLearn so that other students can read and respond to your work. Your blog posts should be based on careful reflection and analysis of the weekly readings.

Further details will be provided on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context

Short Essay (Scoping Paper)

Due: **Friday of Week 8**
Weighting: **20%**

This short essay should be presented as a scoping document, outlining your understanding of the policy problem which we are working on throughout this unit. You will be expected to conduct independent research for this task. Your essay should consider the following aspects of the policy problem:

- the purpose of the policy and how it fits with other policies in the same area
- analysis of the problem definition, including alternative definitions
- assumptions which impact on your policy proposal (including assessment of the ethical, economic, social and cultural factors which are significant in this specific context)
- assessment of the constraints in terms of resources, timing, public opinion, and political

context

These papers will be used as the basis of learning activities which take place at the on-campus sessions.

Further details, including the marking criteria, will be provided on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context

Participation

Due: **On-campus sessions**
Weighting: **10%**

You will be given a mark for participation in the activities and discussion at the compulsory on-campus sessions. The assessment criteria for participation are available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context

Policy Analysis

Due: **Friday of Week 13**
Weighting: **40%**

This final assessment task requires you to present your analysis of the policy problem and its context, and to explain your choice of policy recommendations to address the problem. This essay will build on previous assessment tasks and will also be discussed at length at the on-campus sessions.

Your analysis should include consideration of the following aspects:

- problem definition
- stakeholder positions

- available resources
- appropriate selection of policy instruments
- potential delivery issues
- proposed criteria for evaluation of the policy

Further details, including the marking criteria, will be posted on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context
- Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Delivery and Resources

Important: compulsory attendance at on-campus sessions

This unit is taught in "block teaching" mode.

There are no weekly internal classes in this unit.

All students, internal and external, are required to attend two full days of classes over a weekend. The dates of this block session are **Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May from 9am to 5pm** each day. It is essential that you make yourself available for both these full days of classes.

There will be weekly tasks, mini-lectures and other activities, including assessments, and these are presented in detail on iLearn.

Resources:

This unit has an iLearn website which can be accessed via iLearn.mq.edu.au.

Information about required readings and how to access them is on the iLearn site.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide

appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context
- Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Assessment tasks

- Short reflections
- Short Essay (Scoping Paper)
- Participation
- Policy Analysis

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context
- Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Assessment tasks

- Short reflections
- Short Essay (Scoping Paper)
- Participation
- Policy Analysis

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context
- Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Assessment tasks

- Short reflections

- Short Essay (Scoping Paper)
- Participation
- Policy Analysis

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context

Assessment tasks

- Short reflections
- Short Essay (Scoping Paper)
- Participation
- Policy Analysis

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Assessment task

- Policy Analysis

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of

connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context

Assessment tasks

- Short reflections
- Short Essay (Scoping Paper)
- Participation
- Policy Analysis